

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. The application has been amended as follows:

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's attorney Bruce H. Bernstein on 05-11-2009.

Claim 1 is amended to:

An information storage apparatus to which devices write and from which devices read, the information storage apparatus comprising:

an information controller that, using a key held inside, encrypts and writes data in a memory area, and decodes and reads the encrypted data in said memory area, said memory area including a plurality of partitioned areas, wherein each of said partitioned areas is one of a non-authenticated area accessible without any authentication, an authenticated area accessible only to authenticated devices, and a secure area accessible only to said information controller; and

a partition controller that controls reading from and writing to said partitioned areas in said memory area, said partition controller comprising:

an area controller that controls addresses of said partitioned areas in said memory area;

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an area update condition controller that controls update conditions when updating the number and sizes of said partitioned areas;

an area update decider that receives, from a user, a partition request that requests updating of the number and sizes of said partitioned areas and that decides whether [[a]] said partition request ~~requesting updating of the number and sizes of said partitioned areas~~ satisfies said update conditions; and

an area updater that updates, when said partition request satisfies said update conditions, the number and sizes of said partitioned areas in said memory area according to said partition request,

wherein procedure conditions that specify necessity of authentication in association with a timing of updating said partitioned areas, and entity conditions that specify conditions including the number of times said memory area can be partitioned, a maximum number of partitioned areas, and a maximum size per partitioned area are specified as said update conditions,

wherein said timing of updating said partitioned areas is one of before issuance of the information storage apparatus from a card issuer to the user and after issuance of the information storage apparatus from the card issuer to the user, and

wherein said area update decider receives said partition request from the user after issuance of the information storage apparatus from the card issuer to the user.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 and 4-7 are allowed.

Claims are allowed in light of applicant's amendments (as shown above) and arguments (in the Remarks of 04-06-2009) that applicant's invention enables the user of an information storage apparatus to determine the number and sizes of the partitioned area based on the user's intent (see remarks, page 8, line 21 to page 9, line 11). Claims are allowed further in view of applicant argument that "HIROTA fails to disclose specifying, as the update conditions, procedure conditions that specify the necessity of authentication in association with the timing to update the partitioned areas and entity conditions that specify conditions including the number of times a memory area can be portioned, a maximum number of portioned areas, and maximum size per portions area" (see remarks, page 10, lines 16-20).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ali Abyaneh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7961. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from (8:00-5:00). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned as (571) 273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status

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information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/A. S. A./

Examiner, Art Unit 2437

/Matthew B Smithers/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2437